

# Sofia Talvik bares all in new release

'Paws of a Bear' drops Sept. 27

Swedish folk/American artist Sofia Talvik is prepped to release her latest album, "Paws of a Bear," via Makaki Music on Sept. 27.

Audiences should prepare to hear some of Sofia's most personal and intimate songs on her eighth studio album to date.



JOHNNY VINYL  
RIDE THE VIBE

From the opening notes of "Take Me Home," the first track on "Paws of a Bear" that details Sofia's hometown, it's clear that this is a very bare bones affair. Sofia says that was certainly an intention from the beginning.

"When I recorded this album I wanted to keep it really stripped down. For a while I thought I'd only have guitar and pedal steel for the songs, but then I added some other instruments," she said. "I think I still managed to keep it acoustic though, and the pedal steel is still my favorite instrument on the album."

When an artist approaches music from a minimalist perspective, it focuses all attention on the song. And "Paws of a Bear" has 10 tracks that prove Ms.

Talvik is a consummate songwriter.

The tracks on "Paws of a Bear" also tackle some very specific topics. When asked about how this collection of songs came together, she states, "Either you are really good at creating a persona, like David Bowie did with Ziggy Stardust, or you put your own self on the line and dare to be personal ... it was about things that matter to me."

Loving relationships, failed relationships, growing old, gifts, personal reproductive decisions, Idaho/Montana wildfires and death all get there due, usually from a very specific, female point of view.

And social shaming is more popular now than ever before. The last track on the album, appropriately entitled "Die Alone," deals with how when some decide to remain childless, others feel compelled to give their unsolicited opinions.

"Everything in that song has been said to me ... the only thing I actually haven't been told is that I will die alone ... this is definitely the song that will stir up most emotions and stories at my live shows."

She does provide some comic relief to the pro-



Contributed by Makaki Music

Sofia Talvik's "Paws of a Bear" is set to release Sept. 27.

ceedings with the song "I Liked You Better." She has put to music the feelings/thoughts/emotions that come with failed relationships. And she does it with a lot more class than Taylor Swift has ever shown.

As if the songs weren't enough, Ms. Talvik did all of the album artwork as well. For "Paws of a Bear," Sofia painted a growling bear but upon closer inspection there are images within the bear including a very cool self-portrait. It's a collage in acrylics. For those interested in purchasing prints of the album cover or other related

items, go to <https://igg.me/at/pawsofabear>.

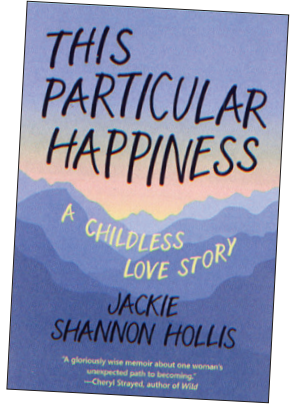
Ms. Talvik, who has performed several shows at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., is currently on tour in Germany. For more information about her music, visit [www.sofiatalvik.com](http://www.sofiatalvik.com).

A retired educator, Johnny Vinyl spends his days with Lucifer, a 10-year-old German shepherd, reading and riding the vibe. His column, Ride the Vibe, focuses on entertainment. Contact him via [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com)

## BOOK REVIEW

# Motherhood or not? That is the question

By RENEE STRUTHERS  
East Oregonian



For Condon native Jackie Shannon Hollis, it was never a question of whether or not she would be a mother, but when. Growing up in the small Gilliam County town, daughter to a third-generation rancher, it was the expectation of every girl to marry and have a family. So why did Jackie, after years of struggle and soul-searching, make the decision to be childless?

"This Particular Happiness" is a memoir of a woman struggling with her identity as a daughter, a wife, a lover, a friend. The expectations of her family to maintain the status quo warred with Jackie's desire for independence. Her search for happiness left a trail of failed relationships in its wake. And through it all, the question: Do I want to be a mother? Was being the "fun aunt" enough? Was she going to end up a bitter, lonely old woman, as her mother predicted? Finding love at last, and one that was worth fighting for, was almost derailed when societal and family pressures rose up against her decision to remain childless.

Realizing that her happiness, in the end, was her responsibility and no one else's was a turning point. But the struggle continues, and the choice to forgo having children is a complicated and emotional path that is different for everyone, men and women alike.

Jackie Shannon Hollis' excruciating struggle to be good enough, to live up to everyone's expectations, is not new. Finding her own personal happiness meant putting aside her people-pleasing upbringing and asking what she wanted for herself: to be loved for who she is, not who (or what) people want her to be.

"This Particular Happiness" is scheduled to be released Oct. 1, 2019, by Forest Avenue Press in Portland.

## BRIEFLY

### Great Pacific announces upcoming shows

PENDLETON — A few musical acts from Portland are cruising into town on their way to the Modest Music Festival in Moscow, Idaho.

The special road trip stop features Night Heron (synth and slow guitar jam brings out the funk), Seance Crasher (synth+ guitar jams with soul) and The Shivas (explosive rock 'n' roll dance party). The all-ages show is Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S.

Main St., Pendleton. There is no cover charge.

Then, on Friday, Sept. 27, Holiday Friends are sailing in from Astoria. The group offers up-tempo hooks with shining melodies — along with some tongue-in-cheek lyrics. That all-ages show also starts at 7 p.m.

For more information,

call 541-276-1350 or visit <http://greatpacific.biz>.

### Mural festival to create art

ONTARIO — The inaugural Eastern Oregon Mural Festival is planned in Ontario. Organizers are teaming

up with Invoice PDX and The Portland Street-Art Alliance to host Eastern Oregon's first mural festival. The goal is to engage the community through the process of creating art and interacting with artists during the process.

The event is Oct. 11-13 with a special focus on Saturday, Oct. 12 from noon to

7 p.m. at Moore Park, located at Oregon Street and Southwest First Avenue, Ontario. It will feature live art, vendors and food.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/892711171103082](http://www.facebook.com/events/892711171103082). For questions, including artist inquiries, contact [info@treasurevalleycannabis.com](mailto:info@treasurevalleycannabis.com).

## WHAT TO DO

### FESTIVALS

#### Farm to Junk

•Saturday, Sept. 21; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

•Downtown Hermiston [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Free. Entertainment, vendors, food booths, vintage displays, FFA animal showcase and more.

#### Oregon's Alpenfest

•Sept. 26-29

•Enterprise, Joseph, Wallowa Lake [www.oregonalpenfest.blogspot.com](http://www.oregonalpenfest.blogspot.com)

Free/opening day & other activities; performances: \$18-\$20/adults, \$9-\$10/kids. Celebration of Swiss & Bavarian culture with polka music, folk dancing, alpine blowing, Swiss yodeling, food and beverages.

#### Hermiston Oktoberfest

•Saturday, Oct. 5; 6 p.m.

•Maxwell Pavilion, 145 N. First Place, Hermiston [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

No cover. Presented by Hermiston Brewing Co., & Nookie's Restaurant, features music with Jessie Leigh, traditional German food, beers and lager, and a cornhole tournament with cash prizes (541-561-1047).

#### Oktoberfest Pendleton

•Saturday, Oct. 12; noon-9 p.m.

•Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave. [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

TBA. Features food and fun for all ages, live music and beer for adults.

### ART, MUSEUMS & AUTHORS

#### "Small Works Invitational"

•Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. [www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)

Free. Features small works of 14 regional artists in the East Oregonian Gallery. Also, "One Summer (of Motherhood)" by Lori Sams is on display.

play in the Lorenzen Board Room Gallery. Runs through Sept. 28.

#### "Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes"

•Monday - Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

•Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino. [www.tamastsligt.org](http://www.tamastsligt.org)

\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths. Features the artwork of 13 contemporary Native American artists — whether using humor, subtlety or irony, the exhibit is fiercely honest. Runs through Oct. 19.

### MUSIC

#### Groove City

•Saturday, Sept. 21; 8 p.m.

No cover  
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

#### Night Heron w/ The Shivas

•Thursday, Sept. 26; 7 p.m.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton  
No cover. All ages. Two Portland bands with Night Heron offering a slow jam and The Shivas serving up rock 'n' roll.

#### Billy Stoops

•Thursday, Sept. 26; 7-9 p.m.

•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

No cover. La Grande-based band rocks Americana and more.

#### Holiday Friends

•Friday, Sept. 27; 7 p.m.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. All ages. The Astoria-based band brings joyful pop and up-tempo melodies.

#### Expertease Band

•Friday, Sept. 27; Saturday, Sept. 28; 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino,

off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

#### Jamie & Luke

•Friday, Oct. 4; 6:30 p.m.

•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo

No cover. Eastern Oregon natives Jamie Nasario & Luke Basile perform blues and more.

#### Camp Crush

•Saturday, Oct. 5; 7 p.m.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. All ages. New-wave pop duo from Portland.

### NIGHT LIFE

#### Beer and Bingo

•Saturday, Sept. 21; 6-9 p.m.

No cover  
•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

#### Karaoke w/DJ David

•Saturdays; 8 p.m.

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

#### Saturday Night Trivia

•Saturdays; 9 p.m.

•Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston  
Free. Show what you know for fun and prizes.

#### '60s Night

•Friday, Sept. 27, 8 p.m.

•Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

No cover. Dust off the bell bottoms and throw on some love beads. A DJ will spin all your favorite songs from the '60s. Drink specials during the party.

#### Karaoke Party

•Wednesdays & Thursdays; 9 p.m. No cover.

•The Pheasant Blue Collar Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

#### Wino Wednesdays

•Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m.

•Echo Ridge Cellars, 551 N. Thielsen St., Echo

#### Karaoke at the Packard

•1st/3rd Wednesday, 9 p.m.-midnight

•The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

No cover.

#### Thirsty Thursdays

•Third Thursday; 6 p.m.

•Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

No cover. Hosts a local brewery offering tastings and food pairings.

#### Karaoke

•Thursdays, 9 p.m.

•The Pheasant Blue Collar Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

#### First Thursday Wine Tasting

•Thursday, Oct. 3, 5-7 p.m.

•The Gathering Place at Bellinger's, 1823 S. Highway 395, Hermiston

Free. Features SuLei Cellars.

#### Wine tasting

•Fridays, 4-8 p.m.

•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

#### Karaoke w/DJ David

•Fridays; 8 p.m.

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

#### DJ and dancing

•Fridays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant Blue Collar Bar & Grill, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

#### Karaoke

•Fridays; 9 p.m.

•Midway Tavern, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

#### Cornhole Tournament

•Friday, Oct. 4; 5-7 p.m.

•Ordnance Brewing, 405 N. Olson Road, Boardman  
No cover. (541-314-8720).

### THEATER, STAGE, FILM & LECTURES

#### "Newsies"

•Sept. 20-21, 27-28, Oct. 4-5

7:30 p.m.

•Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5; 2:30 p.m.

•Elgin Opera House, 104 N. Eighth St. [www.elginoperahouse.com](http://www.elginoperahouse.com)

\$8-\$17. The Broadway musical is set in New York City and shares the story of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teen-aged "newsies."

#### "Aladdin"

•Saturday, Sept. 21; 2:15 p.m.

•SAGE Center, 101 Olson

Road, Boardman

[www.visitsage.com](http://www.visitsage.com)

\$4/person, includes popcorn. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Concessions available for cash purchase. The 2019 release features Will Smith, Mena Massoud and Naomi Scott.

#### "Murder Among the Mateys"

•Saturday, Sept. 28; 6 p.m.

•The Break House At Schoolhouse Village, S.W. Birch Street, Pilot Rock [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

\$35/person, \$60/couple. The interactive murder mystery presentation includes dinner and drinks. Reserve by Sept. 20 (541-975-4845).

#### "Toy Story 3"

•Friday, Sept. 27; 3 p.m.

•Umatilla Public Library, 700 Sixth St. [www.facebook.com/umatillapubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/umatillapubliclibrary)

Free. Movie & Snacks. View the animated movie featuring the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack and Ned Beatty.

### HOT TICKETS

•Kings of Hip Hop with Tone Loc, Vanilla Ice, Biz Markie and Color Me Badd (18+ Oct. 4, \$20-\$45 via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)) at Legends Casino, Toppenish, WA.

•Hells Bells (21+ Oct. 26, free Halloween concert & party); Urban Cowboy Reunion with Mickey Gilley and Johnny Lee (21+, Nov. 23, \$39-\$59 via [www.wildhorsere-sort.com](http://www.wildhorsere-sort.com)) at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

•Mannheim Steamroller Christmas (Dec. 5, \$40-\$80 via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)) at Toyota Center, Kennewick.

Want to get your event listed in our calendar? Send information to [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com), or c/o Tammy Malgesini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.